## Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 FAA-00 L-03 SS-15 NSC-05 /054 W

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R 200702Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3039
INFO AMCONSUL AUCKLAND
AMCONSUL MELBOURNE
AMCONSUL SYDNEY

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E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: EAIR, AS

SUBJ: PAN AM REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE IN FARE APPLICATION

- 1. SUMMARY: PAN AMERICAN HAS BEEN TURNED DOWN IN REQUEST TO APPLY DIRECT MELBOURNE-AUCKLAND FARE TO NON-STOP PASSENGERS ON ITS MELBOUNRE-SYDNEY-AUCKLAND RUN. PAN AM IN CALL ON AMBASSADOR HAS REQUESTED EMBASSY ASSISTANCE. GUIDANCE REQUESTED. END SUMMARY.
- 2. PAN AMERICAN FLIGHTS TO U.S. THROUGH NEW ZEALAND ORIGINATE IN MELBOURNE AND TRANSIT SYDNEY. PAN AM HAS STOP-OVER RIGHTS IN SYDNEY, SO THAT MELBOURNE PASSENGERS MAY DISEMBARK IN SYDNEY AND RESUME JOURNEY ON SUBSEQUENT PAN AM FLIGHT. FARE PAN AM HAS BEEN CHARGING PASSENGERS FLYING PAN AM FROM MELBOURNE TO AUCKLAND HAS BEEN A COMBINATION OF MELBOURNE-SYDNEY AND SYDNEY-AUCKLAND FARES.
- 3. PAN AMERICAN IS NOW PROPOSING THAT IT ALSO BE ALLOWED TO OFFER TO MELBOURNE-AUCKLAND PASSENGERS THAT LOWER DIRECT FARE BEING CHARGED BY CARRIERS FLYING DIRECTLY FROM LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MELBOUNRE TO AUCKLAND, WITH STOP-OVER IN SYDNEY NOT ALLOWABLE TO PASSENGERS UTILIZING THIS FARE.

4. AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT HAS DENIED PAN AM APPLICATION, AS DID NEW ZEALAND GOVERNMENT TWO WEEKS EARLIER. GOA POSITION IS THAT THIS IS A NEW FARE; THAT AUSTRALIA-NEW ZEALAND FARES ARE BILATERAL MATTER BETWEEN AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND; AND

THAT EVEN THOUGH AUSTRALIA MAY HAVE NO DIRECT INTEREST THROUGH QANTAS, IT WILL NOT UNDERCUT NEW ZEALAND BY APPROVING NEW FARE OF WHICH NEW ZEALAND DISAPPROVES. AUSTRALIAN AUTHORITIES STATE THEY CAN UNDERTAKE NO ACTION UNTIL THIER INTERNATIONAL AVIATION REVIEW HAS BEEN COMPLETED, BUT THAT THEY WILL DISCUSS PROPOSED FARE WITH NEW ZEALAND DURING NEXT AUSTRALIA-NEW ZEALAND AVIATION DISCUSSIONS.

5. PAN AM CONTENTION IS THA THE FARE IS NOT A NEW FARE AND THAT A FIFTH FREEDOM CARRIER CANNOT PROPERLY BE EXCLUDED FROM PARTICIPATING IN TRAFFIC ON THROUGH FLIGHTS AT THE DIRECT FARE. PAN AM FURTHER CONTENDS THAT SECTIONS IV AND V OF ANNEX TO BILATERAL, AND IN PARTICULAR LAST TWO SENTENCES OF SECTION V, GIVE IT THE RIGHT TO CHARGE THE LOWER DIRECT FARE.

6. EMBASSY READING OF BILATERAL PROVIDES RELATIVELY LITTLE GUIDANCE IN A SITUATION WHICH IS OBVIOUSLY COMPLICATED BY PAN AM STOP-OVER RIGHTS IN SYDNEY AND ITS OPERATIONS OVER PROLONGED PERIOD WITHOUT HAVING REQUESTED FARE WHICHIT NOW CLAIMS IS ITS RIGHT. IT WOULD ALSO APPEAR THAT NEW ZEALAND RATHER THAN AUSTRALIA WOULD BE PRIMARY PARTY FOR BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS WITH U.S. IF THIS IS TO BE NEXT STEP. E/C COUNSELOR HAS COURTESY CALL ON FIRST ASSISTANT SECRETARY JOHN ROWLAND IN AVIATION POLICY DIVISION SCHEDULED FOR APRIL 27. HAVING ALREADY RASISED MATTER AT LOWER LEVEL, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S GUIDANCE BEFORE APRIL 27 AS TO U.S. POSITION AND WHETHER ANY FURTHER EMBASSY INITIATIVE SHOULD BE TAKEN.
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